

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 182ND ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, the American people join with the people of Greece in celebrating the 182nd anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

The bedrock of our close relationship with Greece is our mutual devotion to freedom and democracy and our unshakable determination to fight, if need be, to protect these rights.

Greek philosophers and political leaders—Cleisthenes and Pericles and their successors—had great influence upon America's Founding Fathers in their creation of these United States.

We, as a nation, owe a great debt to Greece. Greece is the birthplace of democracy, as we know it.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves (American colonists) out of Gothic darkness."

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an attack on democracy and freedom—not just against our people, but also against all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The Greek people understand this.

I congratulate the people of Greece and wish them a Happy National Birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY TAX LEGISLATION

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest problems facing the United States today is our lack of national energy independence.

The United States' dependence upon foreign sources of oil is simply unacceptable for a country rich in natural resources and equipped with the capability to develop these resources as a means of increasing our national security. At the height of the energy crisis during the 1970s, the United States imported 46 percent of our oil supply. Today, it is estimated that we import approximately 55 percent of all energy used in this country. As America's energy consumption increases, our need to produce more energy rises as well. Unfortunately, supply is not meeting demand, and our increased reliance on foreign sources of energy has potentially disastrous consequences for our national security.

At the same time, we have to acknowledge that energy independence cannot be attained through production alone. Though Congress should strongly encourage the production of energy sources as diverse as oil, gas, wind and solar power, we should also encourage the increased conservation of energy.

I believe the United States needs a balanced, forward-looking energy policy for the 21st century. For this reason, today I am introducing legislation that will provide needed in-

centives for the increased production of oil, natural gas, wind and solar power by our small, independent producers, as well as measures to encourage increased conservation of energy.

My bill would provide tax incentives for independent oil and gas producers to maintain production from marginal wells and develop nonconventional fuel sources such as coalbed methane and natural gas from tight sands formations. Further, my legislation would spur development of energy from renewable sources by providing a tax credit for residential solar energy production and electricity generation from wind and other sources.

Any balanced energy plan must acknowledge that Americans need to increase our conservation efforts in an attempt to move closer to energy independence. To that end, my legislation would provide incentives to homeowners to make energy efficient home improvements that decrease their consumption of energy.

Additionally, my legislation would encourage the production of cars powered by fuel cells and hybrid engines. Fuel cell technology holds enormous potential for the future, and the Federal Government has an important role to play in the development and use of this clean, renewable energy source.

The United States will not achieve energy independence overnight, and we must acknowledge that it will take years before America attains a greater level of energy independence. My legislation will move our country in the right direction and bring us closer to the day when we can reduce our dependence upon foreign sources of energy and increase our national energy independence.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAMELA H. SMITH-BEATTY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Pamela H. Smith-Beatty for her faithful service of 22 years to the United States Air Force.

Pamela began her career in the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Medical Service in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. She continued to serve in various locations, including North Dakota, Louisiana, Texas, California, Illinois, Maryland, Korea, and Florida. Throughout her career in these locations, Pamela devotedly performed her duties primarily as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, but also as a Deputy Flight Commander and a Deputy Chief Nurse. Pamela has been honored with several awards, including a Space Command Field Grade Nurse of the Year award, a Meritorious Service Medal, a Commendation Medal, and an Achievement Medal. Pamela will be greatly missed by her co-workers, and greatly appreciated by her country.

I am honored today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Pamela H. Smith-Beatty for her auspicious dedication to serving her country.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CAROL HOTTENROTT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Commander Carol Hottenrott, who served with distinction and dedication during the past year for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, FM&C, as a Navy Appropriations Liaison Officer in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize her many outstanding achievements and commend her for the superb service she has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During her tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in March of 2002, Commander Hottenrott has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding the Department of the Navy's Operations and Maintenance, Personnel and medical programs budget accounts. Her valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped Naval Forces attainable for the defense of our great Nation.

Commander Carol Hottenrott has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the Navy and on Capitol Hill. She continues to be recognized as a truly unique naval officer and is one of a very select group of female naval officers to command a ship. She distinguished herself as a Commanding Officer of a Mine hunting ship and has been selected for command of another combat vessel. Exemplifying the best this country has to offer, she has made many personal sacrifices in the interest of the Navy and our Nation. Having worked with her on the highly complex operations and maintenance issues impacting the port of San Diego, I know she is a wonderful person and officer, and a bright and talented individual. Although she departs today to return to sea on the staff of the new Pacific Expeditionary Strike Group, I expect that she will continue rising through the Navy leadership ranks and that we will have many opportunities to work together again in the future. I wish her every success in her new job, and call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing her "fair winds and following seas."

NOMINEES FOR THE REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM FROM THE PENNYROYAL REGION IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars

and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based on their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities (both community based and school-related), employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

J. D. Quin, Princeton; Frank Armstrong, Hopkinsville; Rebekah Woodall, Cadiz; Josh Covington, Hopkinsville; Jason Musser, Elkton; Elizabeth Hostilo, Hopkinsville; Jordan Judy, Trenton; Dana Davis, Gracey; Ethan Thomasson, Cadiz; Lewis Jones, Princeton; James Yoakum, Hopkinsville; Sarah Phaup, Madisonville; Melinda Orten, Hopkinsville; Hannah Cummins, Fredonia; Rachel Jagggers, Cadiz; Kelsie Nabb, Guthrie.

David Harper, Hopkinsville; Patrick Armstrong, Hopkinsville; Louis Clayton, Hopkinsville; Emmy Lou Kacer, Hopkinsville; Gwen Son, Princeton; Tavia Green, Hopkinsville; Kimberly Fennell, Cadiz; Craig Richardson, Hopkinsville; Jennifer Belcher, Hopkinsville; Jessica Mizwa, Elkton; Jonetta Tabor, Elkton; Jeremy Wells, Hopkinsville; Jackie Shiue, Hopkinsville; Emmy Lou Kacer, Hopkinsville; Stuart Cook, Cadiz; Jeffrey Kellow, Hopkinsville.

Kevin Oliver, Princeton; Katharine Pettit, Lewisburg; Tanner Parrent, Hopkinsville; Ben Gray, Cadiz; Hunter Ray, Hopkinsville; Cayce East, Hopkinsville; Ashley Crick, Crofton; Cayce Higgins, Hopkinsville; Rose Heflin, Elkton Menyon; Cayce East, Hopkinsville; Brian Belva, Hopkinsville; Elizabeth Dearing, Princeton; Patience Manos, Cadiz; Angela Latimer, Hopkinsville.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

CONGRATULATING JOHN
BRADFORD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize and congratulate an exceptional student from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. John Bradford has been named the male middle school student of the year by the Pennsylvania Middle School Association. John is cur-

rently a seventh-grader at Chambersburg Area Middle School, a member of the student council, and involved in numerous projects to help better his community.

Last year, John was instrumental in a campaign to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. He organized an effort to raise \$360 by collecting aluminum can tabs at his school. Through his involvement in student government, John has also been involved in other charity related projects such as Coats for Kids, raising money for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and a food drive that sent 4,000 canned goods to the Salvation Army. He is most recently working on gathering other middle school students to join him in participating in a walk-a-thon for the March of Dimes.

John has already accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments and has demonstrated a true desire to help better his community. I encourage him to continue volunteering and helping so many worthy charities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Bradford for earning recognition as an exceptional individual by being named the male middle school student of the year in Pennsylvania. I am very proud to have such a tremendous individual in my district, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SUNIL "SUNNY"
AGHI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise on the House floor to mourn the passing of one of the Indian American community's most exemplary leaders, Mr. Sunil "Sunny" Aghi. Although we will be at a great loss with his passing and it is difficult to express in words the grief of his family and all those who knew him, I would like to offer this tribute as a celebration of his many accomplishments during his short life.

"Sunny" was a man who stood for the honor and responsibility that comes along with American citizenship. Among his accomplishments was the creation of the Indo-American Political Foundation, a group dedicated to ensuring that Indian Americans were active in their communities and their government.

Beyond his numerous personal efforts to provide food and clothing for local charities, and raising money for scholarships to allow struggling families to send their children to college, Sunil's foundation sought to educate Indian Americans about what it means to be a part of their government and how it allows them to be proud of their citizenship in this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have called Sunil Aghi a friend and I am eternally grateful to have called him a partner in the fight to bring government to the people and people to their government. I, for one, am humbled by his accomplishments and can only hope that his message of strong involvement in government, pride in our country, and concern for his fellow Americans will live on in all those he has touched.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I hope "Sunny" is remembered for all he has done and all that he has stood for throughout his short time.

HONORING 182 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN GREECE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of America's greatest allies and inspiration for our freedom, liberty, and most importantly, our democratic system of government—Greece.

Today marks the 182nd anniversary of Greek independence. Greek-Americans in my district of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and throughout the United States will celebrate this milestone and continue their rich tradition of philanthropy, civic duty, and education. Indeed, there are more than 3 million Greek-Americans in our country providing America with professors, engineers, scientists, artists, athletes, and politicians. Greek culture and heritage touch nearly every aspect of American life.

Greek Independence Day marks the revival of democracy in the place that gave birth to its principles, and many of the political, artistic and social innovations of Greece were the source of some of America's greatest treasures, including the rugged individualism described in Homer's poetry or the political philosophies of Aristotle.

In these days of war and terrorism, Greece remains a steadfast and stable ally of the United States in a region of the world that is marked by turbulence and violence. Following the attacks on America on September 11th, Greece was one of the very first countries to express solidarity with the United States. Since this time, Greece has made outstanding contributions to the global war against terrorism, including military support for Operation Enduring Freedom, humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, and participation in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

My Speaker, Greek-Americans should be proud of their rich and long heritage of service to their fellow humans, both domestically and abroad. I strongly applaud Greek-American commitment to family, community, and America, and hope all Americans join with Greece and her sons and daughters to celebrate 182 years of freedom, democracy, and friendship.

OREGON OPTION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, my state of Oregon is one of nine states nationwide that currently operates its welfare program under a federal waiver. In Oregon the program is known as the "Oregon Option," and in the past six years, it has seen caseload reduction rates above the national average.

Our innovative, state designed program allows Oregon the flexibility to consider individuals on a case-by-case basis.

Some folks simply need a little job training or job search skills and they are ready to transition back into the workforce. On the other